

Teaching Assistantships

Hourly Rate

Apart from the Faculty of Engineering (and now Science), the hourly rate paid for TA duties is artificially high because it is a combination of compensation for duties performed, together with a component that is a research award (scholarship). Given recent changes in the tax regulations that make scholarships and awards tax-exempt, continuing this practice is prejudicial to students. With these considerations in mind, ***effective May 1, 2008, the TA rate will be \$27 per hour, plus vacation pay.*** The rate will continue to be subject to annual adjustment via a recommendation by the Graduate Student Support Advisory Committee to the Provost.

Hours Per Term

The maximum allowed by regulation is 160 hours (maximum 10 hours per week for 16 weeks) each term. It has been agreed that ***the number of hours of service per term for one TA unit will be between 100 and 160 hours. A half TA unit may be awarded.***

Ideally, ***each Faculty should have a common number of hours of service per TA unit; failing that, uniformity must be sustained at the department/school level.***

When a graduate student is essentially serving as the instructor for a course, he/she should be appointed as a sessional lecturer and paid at least the minimum sessional instructor stipend, which is established annually.

Scholarship Funding Originally Imbedded in the TA Rate

The part of the support previously provided through artificially high TA rates will remain within the Faculty budgets and be available to provide graduate student awards. That funding will be adjusted annually consistent with the change in the TA rate. Faculties may choose to link an award with each TA, so that the aggregate funding provided to a student via a TA will remain the same as in the past (although the after-tax amount will increase). The Faculty of Science has proceeded in this way by creating Science Graduate Experience Awards (SGEAs). The award is intended to provide financial support for graduate students who acquire experience as teaching assistants during the course of their graduate studies program. Students who hold a graduate student teaching assistantship are eligible to receive the award. The value of the award is department/school specific. It forms part of the total teaching assistantship support committed to the student, and is not an additional award. If other Faculties choose to follow Science's path, the same title for the award be used: [Faculty] Graduate Experience Award.

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